11/13/86 A 2575-3

American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005

Monthly Completion Report

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
Special Projects Section
(202) 682-8492/682-8518

Report Month: OCTOBER 1986

REPORT ON WELL COMPLETIONS IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

Wells actually completed in the current month may not be reported until several months later. The chart shown below illustrates the cumulative number of well completions for the current month and each of the eleven prior months, as now reported to the API. For comparison purposes, a corresponding curve describes the data, as then reported to the API, for the same twelve-month period a year ago.

These data are preliminary and subject to revision. The number of wells shown in the chart excludes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. The geographic distribution for wells and footage is not published on a monthly basis, but is available from the API's "Quarterly Completion Report."

Cumulative Number of Wells Reported as Completed
For Each of the Past 12 Months

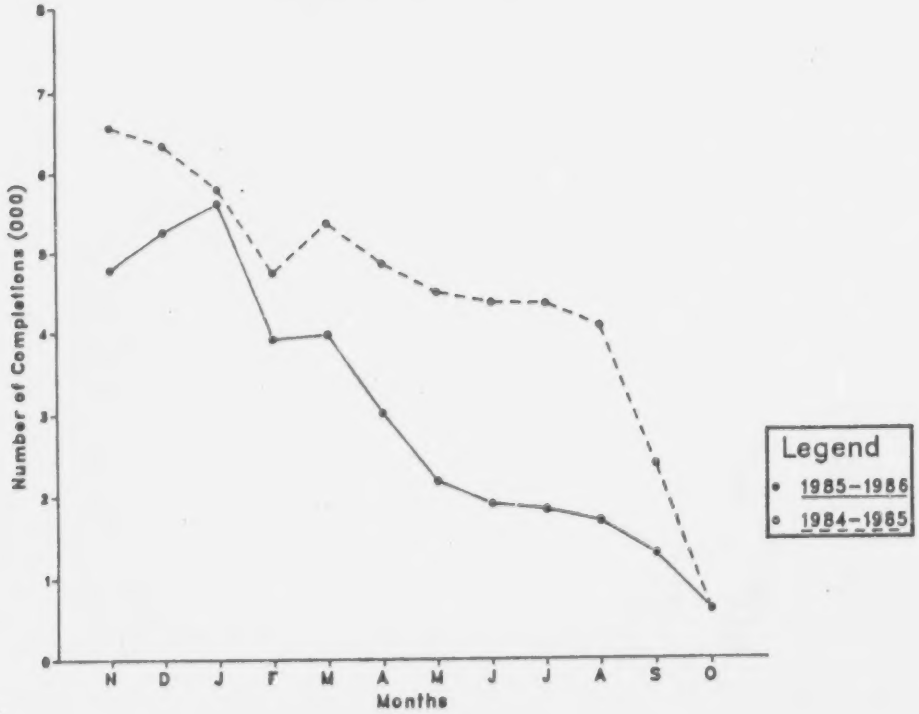

TABLE I: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF TOTAL WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF OCTOBER 31, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES		TOTAL ALL WELLS[4]	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	13,062	54,785,162	4,410	25,449,205	8,515	43,354,154	25,987	123,588,521	26,365	124,987,262
1986: OCT	249	701,807	67	267,343	287	1,448,127	603	2,417,277	605	2,421,852
SEP	564	2,346,268	167	1,080,085	559	2,877,096	1,290	6,303,449	1,301	6,353,668
AUG	683	3,047,069	292	1,634,530	715	3,416,135	1,690	8,097,734	1,715	8,186,351
JUL	770	3,472,973	361	1,927,438	696	3,524,830	1,827	8,925,241	1,866	9,057,008
JUN	837	3,590,755	379	2,185,004	685	3,277,066	1,901	9,052,825	1,925	9,151,387
MAY	1,011	4,655,705	396	2,343,623	772	3,981,206	2,179	10,980,534	2,226	11,170,389
APR	1,539	6,936,557	559	3,451,737	913	4,594,436	3,011	14,982,730	3,058	15,176,178
MAR	2,155	9,205,780	634	3,857,183	1,176	5,799,043	3,965	18,862,006	4,011	19,010,033
FEB	2,191	9,343,154	636	3,776,591	1,084	6,042,228	3,911	19,161,973	3,970	19,393,345
JAN	3,063	11,485,094	919	4,925,671	1,628	8,393,987	5,610	24,804,752	5,688	25,067,051
TOTAL 1985	34,724	137,819,049	12,206	67,694,530	20,280	100,617,207	67,210	306,130,786	68,790	311,084,415
1985: DEC	2,676	10,856,671	848	4,792,533	1,727	8,915,505	5,251	24,564,709	5,328	24,845,563
NOV	2,469	9,858,769	833	4,809,931	1,474	7,349,632	4,776	22,018,332	4,846	22,281,013
OCT	2,883	11,423,752	1,154	5,923,057	1,697	8,257,209	5,734	25,604,018	5,824	25,922,591
SEP	2,727	10,417,172	1,032	5,400,376	1,656	8,094,387	5,415	23,911,935	5,504	24,159,052
AUG	3,210	12,276,120	1,082	5,838,071	1,856	8,797,166	6,148	26,911,357	6,240	27,175,833
JUL	3,003	11,149,504	1,055	5,817,350	1,757	8,269,599	5,815	25,236,453	5,970	25,674,431
JUN	2,859	11,052,799	999	5,372,807	1,609	7,587,143	5,467	24,012,749	5,610	24,460,480
MAY	2,779	11,488,648	889	4,990,059	1,622	8,097,463	5,290	24,576,170	5,483	25,163,377
APR	2,903	11,683,081	973	5,678,402	1,684	8,397,796	5,560	25,759,279	5,712	26,182,076
MAR	3,182	12,954,178	1,084	6,217,692	1,777	8,803,766	6,043	27,975,636	6,245	28,511,650
FEB	2,779	11,547,676	1,074	6,155,202	1,488	7,788,621	5,341	25,491,499	5,478	25,944,081
JAN	3,254	13,110,679	1,183	6,699,050	1,933	10,258,920	6,370	30,068,649	6,550	30,764,068
TOTAL 1984	43,397	165,390,773	14,596	80,297,787	24,801	117,479,507	82,794	363,168,067	84,971	368,865,533
1984: DEC	3,562	13,230,442	1,307	6,829,694	2,077	10,434,988	6,946	30,495,124	7,128	30,965,699
NOV	3,692	13,819,007	1,401	7,085,587	1,996	9,720,548	7,089	30,625,142	7,266	31,107,296
OCT	3,710	14,665,461	1,344	7,261,416	2,035	9,603,905	7,089	31,530,782	7,321	32,195,241
SEP	3,624	13,322,543	1,232	6,523,759	2,061	9,444,985	6,917	29,291,287	7,057	29,662,733
AUG	3,840	14,079,890	1,390	7,459,394	2,500	11,181,194	7,730	32,720,478	7,928	33,310,056
JUL	3,883	14,534,007	1,242	6,992,678	2,269	10,220,558	7,394	31,747,243	7,578	32,229,161
JUN	3,840	14,125,366	1,302	6,934,261	2,324	10,414,734	7,466	31,474,361	7,653	31,942,206
MAY	3,677	14,115,106	1,168	6,678,339	1,946	9,436,857	6,791	30,230,302	6,968	30,642,639
APR	3,216	12,109,427	860	5,338,143	1,706	8,383,945	5,782	25,831,515	5,982	26,293,400
MAR	3,384	13,517,144	1,034	6,421,333	1,785	8,900,592	6,203	28,839,069	6,380	29,274,074
FEB	3,390	13,431,290	1,126	6,172,709	1,806	8,838,383	6,322	28,442,382	6,480	28,877,289
JAN	3,579	14,441,090	1,190	6,600,474	2,296	10,898,818	7,065	31,940,382	7,230	32,365,739
TOTAL 1983	38,078	140,429,335	12,628	69,518,896	23,533	103,017,266	74,239	312,965,497	76,265	317,724,091
TOTAL 1982	40,145	152,776,343	17,159	99,138,259	25,808	121,989,338	83,112	373,903,940	85,344	379,183,233

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE II: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF EXPLORATORY WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF OCTOBER 31, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	769	4,680,993	479	3,319,942	3,767	21,899,278	5,015	29,900,213
1986: OCT	11	70,145	2	12,449	123	728,100	136	810,694
SEP	23	104,645	23	126,000	243	1,353,626	289	1,584,271
AUG	41	229,864	29	198,458	303	1,675,095	373	2,103,417
JUL	55	306,456	45	256,379	305	1,646,137	405	2,208,972
JUN	50	284,610	42	266,416	274	1,524,433	366	2,075,459
MAY	75	426,944	43	354,306	370	2,186,719	488	2,967,969
APR	97	685,055	57	475,113	406	2,364,500	560	3,524,668
MAR	114	762,094	70	558,554	520	2,981,550	704	4,302,198
FEB	118	734,781	72	519,067	491	3,159,868	681	4,413,716
JAN	185	1,076,399	96	553,200	732	4,279,250	1,013	5,908,849
TOTAL 1985	1,763	10,206,498	1,234	8,265,402	8,933	49,228,380	11,930	67,700,280
1985: DEC	145	851,668	80	531,673	840	4,772,825	1,065	6,156,166
NOV	108	637,817	87	650,675	670	3,673,836	865	4,962,328
OCT	145	803,938	85	489,497	766	4,071,103	996	5,364,538
SEP	121	653,333	75	503,058	734	3,951,945	930	5,108,336
AUG	172	1,010,106	96	626,083	813	4,236,220	1,081	5,872,409
JUL	139	798,369	91	587,364	746	3,916,461	976	5,302,194
JUN	129	657,974	113	815,700	682	3,425,593	924	4,899,267
MAY	154	899,807	123	779,966	680	3,805,113	957	5,484,886
APR	129	713,574	113	772,762	715	4,063,566	957	5,549,902
MAR	182	1,098,615	109	693,692	734	4,136,867	1,024	5,929,174
FEB	164	1,026,618	120	841,371	685	4,055,765	969	5,923,754
JAN	175	1,054,679	143	973,561	868	5,119,086	1,186	7,147,326
TOTAL 1984	2,317	12,534,150	1,560	9,825,361	11,026	58,259,742	14,903	80,619,253
1984: DEC	157	801,052	104	580,181	945	5,411,922	1,206	6,793,155
NOV	179	988,586	111	666,224	861	4,739,862	1,151	6,394,672
OCT	159	825,650	140	898,937	951	4,841,405	1,250	6,565,992
SEP	216	1,170,730	129	871,775	899	4,589,581	1,244	6,632,086
AUG	187	998,761	124	806,449	1,074	5,536,338	1,385	7,341,548
JUL	191	992,533	150	982,743	1,062	5,235,591	1,403	7,210,867
JUN	199	1,110,611	135	786,190	1,073	5,309,770	1,407	7,206,571
MAY	215	1,169,523	134	841,878	843	4,610,787	1,192	6,622,188
APR	156	918,420	99	678,757	753	4,057,351	1,008	5,654,528
MAR	216	1,200,913	152	1,035,415	743	4,181,409	1,111	6,417,737
FEB	206	1,163,415	150	889,126	812	4,442,097	1,168	6,494,638
JAN	236	1,193,956	132	787,686	1,010	5,303,629	1,378	7,285,271
TOTAL 1983	2,138	10,635,927	1,618	10,111,625	10,057	48,340,300	13,813	69,087,852
TOTAL 1982	2,486	13,509,134	2,133	14,618,788	11,216	60,242,610	15,835	88,370,532

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE III: TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS AND FOOTAGE ADDITIONS[1] BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR REPORTED TO THE API DURING OCTOBER 1986

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS AND DRY HOLES		TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[4] CURRENT MONTH	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	1,062	3,842,620	530	2,790,826	739	3,478,168	2,331	10,111,614	2,351	10,202,565
1986: OCT	249	701,807	67	267,343	287	1,448,127	603	2,417,277	605	2,421,852
SEP	356	1,553,258	126	825,586	256	1,234,344	738	3,613,188	747	3,658,267
AUG	125	548,395	122	661,864	70	311,490	317	1,521,749	324	1,554,104
JUL	66	251,095	65	313,138	31	141,583	162	705,816	162	705,816
JUN	54	175,463	34	183,924	11	40,027	99	399,414	99	399,414
MAY	34	130,196	18	96,152	18	71,360	70	297,708	70	297,708
APR	43	157,940	39	197,468	19	69,258	101	424,666	101	424,666
MAR	60	184,274	19	97,938	23	79,244	102	361,456	102	361,456
FEB	34	65,383	20	73,300	9	22,601	63	161,284	63	161,284
JAN	41	74,809	20	74,113	15	60,134	76	209,056	78	217,998
TOTAL 1985	202	500,711	81	373,574	98	317,842	381	1,192,127	388	1,225,882
1985: DEC	31	81,928	10	34,378	9	44,978	50	161,284	52	174,122
NOV	18	62,847	14	67,779	7	15,779	39	146,405	39	146,405
OCT	23	62,353	9	37,459	9	24,124	41	123,936	41	123,936
SEP	22	28,503	9	36,805	14	36,791	45	102,099	47	103,849
AUG	20	42,429	5	29,618	6	8,156	31	80,203	31	80,203
JUL	14	25,470	8	31,410	14	55,357	36	112,237	38	123,047
JUN	12	30,461	7	38,993	8	30,674	27	100,128	27	100,128
MAY	7	27,772	3	13,374	5	23,661	15	64,807	16	73,164
APR	11	28,670	6	35,808	6	23,452	23	87,930	23	87,930
MAR	16	44,668	3	12,156	5	17,382	24	74,206	24	74,206
FEB	12	23,579	4	18,337	8	23,343	24	65,259	24	65,259
JAN	16	42,031	3	17,457	7	14,145	26	73,633	26	73,633
TOTAL 1984	97	210,252	26	115,587	54	112,068	177	437,907	180	450,553
1984: DEC	13	30,557	8	32,019	6	10,152	27	72,728	27	72,728
NOV	10	15,407	3	8,890	11	23,080	24	47,377	24	47,377
OCT	14	31,807	2	9,838	10	24,007	26	65,652	26	65,652
SEP	4	10,845	3	13,597	2	1,186	9	25,628	9	25,628
AUG	10	12,479	2	10,676	9	16,735	21	39,890	22	49,988
JUL	10	33,007	0	0	7	15,085	17	48,092	18	49,480
JUN	3	6,542	0	0	0	0	3	6,542	3	6,542
MAY	3	5,078	2	15,538	1	9,240	6	29,856	6	29,856
APR	5	11,673	3	10,583	1	1,036	9	23,292	9	23,292
MAR	12	22,966	2	8,546	1	1,500	15	33,012	15	33,012
FEB	3	13,514	1	5,900	3	5,311	7	24,725	7	24,725
JAN	10	16,377	0	0	3	4,736	13	21,113	14	22,273
TOTAL 1983	54	76,211	20	51,156	27	63,610	101	190,977	102	191,977
YRS PRIOR TO 1983	17	24,901	11	22,648	24	49,340	52	96,889	52	96,889
TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[5]	1,432	4,654,695	668	3,353,791	942	4,021,028	3,042	12,029,514	3,073	12,167,866

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE I AND TABLE II:

1. The cumulative number of wells reported in this table is the total number of wells included in the API database for each of the months and years shown, as of October 31, 1986. These data are preliminary and subject to further revisions.

2. Includes multiple completion wells which produce oil from at least one zone, but may produce gas from one or more zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well.

3. Includes multiple completion wells which produce gas from all zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well. Gas wells also include so-called condensate wells.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. (Not applicable to Table II.)

TABLE III:

1. Total number of wells received by the API during the report month and classified by completion month and year. These wells are included in Tables I and II.

2. See footnote (2) above.

3. See footnote (3) above.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells.

5. Total wells reported are those received by the API for the report period September 27, 1986 through October 31, 1986. The sub-totals shown for each yearly period may not add up to the total wells reported for the period. Some wells, received during the report period, may have been completed in years prior to those shown in Table III.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In 1966 the American Petroleum Institute, in conjunction with other industry associations and federal and state agencies, agreed on a set of definitions for terms used in reporting statistical information. Included were the definitions for oil wells and gas wells, which have appeared as footnotes in the API's drilling publications since 1970. In most cases these definitions were adhered to.

The one exception to this was in the state of Ohio, where a substantial number of wells produce primarily gas along with relatively small amounts of oil. The Ohio Division of Oil and Gas classified these as "combination" wells. In reporting these wells to the API, the Ohio Oil and Gas Division developed a formula for classifying these combination wells as either oil or gas. Therefore, for the years 1970 through 1985, certain wells were classified as gas wells, which under the API definitions would have been classified as oil wells.

Petroleum Information Corporation, on the other hand, adhered to the definitions established, and thus reported these wells as oil wells. Thus, beginning in 1986, when PI was retained as the source for drilling information, wells which in the past would have been reported as gas wells now are being included in the oil well category.

This change will not be too apparent for the current report period since the reporting time lag for some areas tends to minimize the impact. However, as more 1986 data are reported to the API, the shift in well classification, from gas to oil, will become evident.

Therefore, the API has modified its data base and has changed the previously reported gas wells to oil wells to coincide with the new reporting basis. Thus, the April "Monthly Completion Report" shows the number of oil wells and gas wells for the current month and all prior months on the new basis.

1/ A well which produces oil from one zone, regardless of the number of productive gas zones, is classified as an oil well. A well which produces gas from one or more zones is classified as a gas well.

The January through March, 1986 "Monthly Completion Reports" also have been reclassified and they will be made available to Subscribers on request. If you wish to receive the three prior monthly reports please write to:

Drilling Statistics Section
American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005